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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

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June 6, 2006

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Intermountain Region News Release

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT REMINDS HIKERS ABOUT FIRE AND HIKING SAFETY

Darlene M. Koontz, Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument announced today, "We appreciate the cooperation of our hikers and campers in complying with our fire restrictions last month. To further reduce the threat of human caused fires, we are now prohibiting campfires everywhere in the park. We are encouraging campers to continue to come to Bandelier but to do so without campfires and charcoal grills."

"The heat, high winds, high lightning frequency and extreme fire danger are all things that day and overnight hikers must be prepared for," added Koontz. "We encourage all hikers to avoid these extreme conditions by doing shorter hikes, drinking enough water to stay hydrated, staying aware of weather conditions, and selecting hiking locations with shade. High-elevation areas such as the Alamo Boundary Trail and the Cerro Grande Route are great hiking options in the mornings when lightning is less likely."

"As an added safety measure, we are asking all day hikers going to remote backcountry areas such as Capulin and Alamo canyons to register at the trailheads or the visitor center," said Chief Ranger Carl Newman. "Overnight hikers are still required to obtain their free permits at the visitor center. This will enable us to locate hikers in the event of a wildfire. All backcountry hikers need to watch for trail registers and notices as we proceed through the fire season."

"Smokers are also encouraged to be careful with their cigarette butts," said Fire Management Officer Gary Kemp. "Smoking is still permitted in some paved areas and in personal vehicles but not on park trails or in vegetated areas."

"All visitor facilities and park trails are open," said Koontz. "The 124 acre area burned by the Capulin Fire in May will remain closed so that the area may be rehabilitated, but all trails are now open."

Visitors to the Monument may still use safe, petroleum-heated stoves, lanterns or cooking devices in the designated front-country and backcountry campgrounds. Stoves should only be used in locations clear of vegetation or other flammable materials.

The toll free fire restriction hotline phone number for New Mexico is: (877) 864-6985. For further fire information visit www.nmfireinfo.com.

"DO YOUR PART, DON'T LET A WILDFIRE START!"

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.